

# CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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## ***Mayor Healy Speaks on White House Panel on the Importance of Volunteerism and Civic Involvement***

JERSEY CITY — Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy on Thursday participated in a **White House panel**, “Expanding Opportunity Through Volunteerism,” that began with an announcement from **U.S. Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis** on the importance of volunteerism as a tool to help the unemployed find permanent work.

The **U.S. Department of Labor** announced Thursday guidance for state demonstration projects to identify innovative strategies that quickly connect unemployed workers with good jobs. The announcement was a key component of the first major overhaul of the Unemployment Insurance system in decades, made possible by the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 signed by President Barack Obama in February.

In addition to Secretary Solis, **Chairman of President Obama’s Council of Economic Advisors, Alan Krueger**, spoke prior to the panel on the Administration’s commitment to furthering job growth.

**Michelle Nunn, Chief Executive Officer of Points of Light**, a national volunteer organization, pointed to studies that show communities with a high level of volunteerism and a citizenry who is engaged in civics tend to have lower unemployment rates.

During the panel discussion, Mayor Healy, who was joined by David Smith, Executive Director of the National Conference on Citizenship; Carl Allegretti, Chairman and CEO of Deloitte Tax LLP; and Mayor Paul Woodson, of Salisbury, N.C., spoke about how volunteerism has a positive impact on a community and assists the local government with improving the quality of life for its residents.

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(2)

“In Jersey City we have one of the most diverse communities in the state, and we encourage volunteerism such as the recent BIG DIG project that saw more than 600 volunteers take part in a citywide beautification project,” said Mayor Healy. “Projects like this not only make our city look better, but also help to attract further investment and development into our city.”

Mayor Healy also used the opportunity of the White House visit, his second within the last year, to promote the need for further investment in public transportation in urban areas like Jersey City. During his last visit, in April 2011, Mayor Healy met with White House staff to advocate for the extension of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail across Route 440 to the future Bayfront development, as well as for funding to redesign Route 440 into a main street style boulevard.

**All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699./////**